

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHARTO 03368 251153Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05
CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00
SIL-01 PA-01 ICA-11 /090 W
-----046583 260020Z /23

R 251044Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7955
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 3368

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, PINS, PINT SU
SUBJECT: ACCOUNTANTS STRIKE THREATENS GOVERNMENT PAYDAY

1. ACCOUNTANTS AND CASHIERS DIVISION OF FEDERATION OF
EMPLOYEES AND PROFESSIONALS BEGAN STRIKE JULY 23 PROTESTING
NEW JOB CLASSIFICATIONS. STRIKE BEGAN GRADUALLY BUT WAS
FULLY EFFECTIVE WITHIN 24 HOURS. STRIKE PLANNED TO LAST TEN
DAYS IN ORDER TO PREVENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES FROM
BEING PAID ON JULY 24 AND NATIONAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ON
JULY 30. STRIKE HAS NOT BEEN MENTIONED IN MEDIA. VICE
PRESIDENT ABUL GASSIM IS MEETING WITH UNION OFFICIALS
JULY 25.

2. STRIKERS' SPECIFIC DEMANDS INCLUDE IMPROVEMENT IN WAGE
AND JOB EVALUATION SCHEME HAMMERED OUT IN JUNE BY SPECIAL
COMMITTEE IN WAKE OF MARCH-APRIL LABOR UNREST. ACCOUNTANTS
HAD BEEN PROMISED ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW GENERAL BUREAU
OF ACCOUNTANTS IN AUDITOR GENERAL'S OFFICE BUT THIS
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PROMISE HAS NOT BEEN IMPLEMENTED. IT WOULD CREATE MORE
SENIOR POSITIONS FOR ACCOUNTANTS AND BRING CENTRALIZED
ACCOUNTING UNDER AUDITOR GENERAL. CREATION OF GENERAL
BUREAU OF ACCOUNTS HAD BEEN AGREED UPON BY SUDAN SOCIALIST
UNION LAST YEAR.

3. COMMENT: LAST MONTH SPECIAL ARABIC AND RELIGIOUS

TEACHERS STRUCK DURING EXAMINATION TIME AND FORCED QUICK
GOVERNMENT CAPITULATION TO THEIR DEMANDS. ACCOUNTANTS
APPARENTLY HOPE TO USE GOVERNMENT FEAR OF MISSING PAYDAYS
FOR SIMILAR RAPID SUCCESS. NEW WAGE AND JOB CLASSIFICATION
SCHEME WHICH WAS SUPPOSED TO BRING HIGHER WAGES TO ALMOST
ALL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES IN JULY HAS SEVERE TEETHING
PROBLEMS. MANY AGENCIES ARE SLOWLY MAKING NEW CLASSIFICATIONS,
GETTING PAPERWORK READY, AND PREPARING TO PAY NEW WAGES IN
TWO TO THREE MONTHS. NEW WAGES WILL BE RETROACTIVE TO
JULY BUT THOUSANDS OF WORKERS WHO LIVE HAND TO MOUTN DO NOT
ACCEPT NECESSITY FOR DELAY. THUS, FURTHER LABOR UNREST IS
EXPECTED THROUGHOUT SUMMER. COMMUNIST AGITATION WAS
UNDOUBTEDLY A FACTOR IN LABOR PROBLEMS THIS SPRING.
THEREFORE, ANY LABOR PROBLEMS CAUSE SPECULATION ABOUT FURTHER
COMMUNIST ACTIVITY. CERTAINLY THIS STRIKE WHICH COULD
AFFECT ALL GOVERNMENT WORKERS RAISES DANGER OF BEING EXPLOITED
BY ENEMIES OF REGIME.
MERRICK

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